

Chulym language

Chulym (in Chulym: Ось тили, *Ös tili*; Russian: Чулымский язык), also known as **Chulim**, **Chulym-Turkic** (not to be confused with the closely related Siberian Tatar language), is the language of the Chulyms. The names which the people use to refer to themselves are 1. пистин кишилер, *pistɪŋ kifɪlɐr* (our people) and 2. ось кишилер, *øs kifɪlɐr* (Ös people). The native designation for the language are ось тил(и), *øs til(ɪ) ~ ø:s til(ɪ)*, and less frequently тадар тил(и), *tadar til(ɪ)*.^[3]

The language is spoken in Russia, at various locations along the Chulym River.

Contents
Classification
History
Geographic Distribution
Documentation
Sounds/Phonology
Consonants
Grammar
Morphology
Syntax
Vocabulary
Writing system
References
External links

Classification

The Chulym language was considered to belong to the Siberian Turkic group of Turkic languages that also includes Khakas, Shor and Saryg-Yughur languages. Nogorodov, et al. argue that Chulym is of Kipchak origins, based on the Leipzig-Jakarta list. This comparison shows that 87 of the 100 items match the Kipchak items, whereas only 67 are cognate to Oghuz Turkic.^[4]

History

Chulym	
Ось тили, тадар тили	
Pronunciation	[ø̞s tɪɪ ~ øːs tɪɪ] , [tadar tɪɪ]
Native to	Russia
Region	Tyukhtetsky District, Teguldetsky District, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Tomsk Oblast
Ethnicity	360 Chulym s (2010 census) ^[1]
Native speakers	44 (2010 census) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Turkic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Common Turkic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Siberian Turkic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chulym</div>
Dialects	Lower Chulym <div>Middle Chulym</div>
Writing system	Cyrillic
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	clw
Glottolog	chul1246 (http://glottolog.org/resource/linguoid/id/chul1246) ^[2]

Chulym was once a widely spoken language but its history consists of "multiple waves of colonization and linguistic assimilation first into Turkic, and now into Russian". This shift becomes even more evident when one studies the structure of the language, which is distinguishable from other Siberian Turkic languages. Now, Middle Chulym has become endangered due to the Russian hostility that occurred during the mid-twentieth century. It was during the 1940s, when Joseph Stalin was in power, that there was an establishment of a program called "the second mother tongue policy". This included the act of rounding up children and sending them to boarding schools, where they learned the nation's language and were forced not to speak their own native tongue. The program quickly caused the community to abandon the Chulym language. Soon enough, the language became associated with negative connotations and thus it gained an inferior and low social status. According to the film, *The Linguists*, a Chulym native speaker, Vasya, claimed that "Chulym was viewed as a 'gutter language'," and the language was no longer passed on to the children. Furthermore, in the 1970s, the Chulym community was forced into Russian-speaking settlements, where they had to adapt and speak the Russian language in order to move up in the social ladder and have greater chances of economic prosperity. Soon enough, Chulym speakers were abandoning their native tongue; this caused the community to lose a great number of speakers and their language traditions. Not only were the Chulym people forced to abandon their language, but also the government dropped them from the census statistics as a distinct ethnic group after 1959. Under the eyes of the government, the Chulym population was seen as non-existent, and not enough to earn itself a place as a different national unit; it was not until 1999 that the community regained their status as a separate ethnic entity. Thus with Russia's urbanization and domination of their national language, Chulym's chances of survival were slim.

Geographic Distribution

The language is closely related to the Shor and Khakas languages. Though all these are considered by some as one language, the *Ös* speakers themselves do not believe this to be the case.

Chulym comprises two distinct dialects with multiple sub-dialects, corresponding to locations along the Chulym River. The *native ethnonym* is given in italics.

- Lower Chulym (now believed extinct)
 - *Küärik, küärik jon* (Koryukovskaya volost)
 - Ketsik (Kurchikova volost)
 - *Yezhi, je:ži jon* (Baygul'skaya volost)
 - *Yatsi, jatsi jon* (Yachinskaya volost)
 - Chibi, *tš'ibi d'on* (Kyzyldeyeva volost)
- Middle Chulym
 - Tatal, *tuta ɬ tš'onu* (Tatal'skaya volost, Teguldetsky District, Tomsk Oblast)
 - Melet, *pilet tš'onu* (Meletskaya volost, Tyukhtetsky District, Krasnoyarsk Krai)

The "Upper Chulym dialect" identified by Harrison & Anderson^[3] is in fact the Melet sub-dialect of Middle Chulym. The Chulym-Turkic language is a geographical, rather than a linguistic term. In its diachronic perspective, it comprised a (sub-)dialectal continuum with the neighboring (sub-)dialects showing only slight differentiation, while those at the extremes or the periphery of the area were rather mutually unintelligible.^[5]

Chulym is a moribund language and will most likely be extinct by the 2030s. It is listed in the UNESCO Red Book of Endangered Languages. During the filming of the 2008 American documentary film *The Linguists*, linguists Greg Anderson and K. David Harrison interviewed and recorded 20 speakers and estimated there may be between 35–40 fluent speakers out of a community of overall 426 members.^[3] The youngest fluent

speaker was 54 at the time of filming.^[6] Lemskaya mentions that this person seems to be the youngest speaker of the Tural dialect, whereas she has found speakers in their late 40s of the Melet dialect (which Anderson & Harrison call 'Upper Chulym').^[5]

The speakers are located in Russia, in southwestern Siberia, north of the Altay Mountains, in the basin of the Chulym River, a tributary of the Ob River.^[7] Ös speakers reside primarily in Belij Yar, Novoshumilovo, Ozyornoe, and Tegul'det, in eastern Tomsk Oblast' and Pasechnoe in western Krasnoyarsk Kray.^[3] All speakers are bilingual in Russian. In Soviet times, speakers of the language suffered as children were discouraged from or punished for using the language in schools, in a process of language devalorization.^[8]

Documentation

The fact that Chulym had no written indigenous tradition, made it even more difficult for the language to endure. It was not until David Harrison and Greg Anderson from the documentary, that they began using scientific methods to document the Chulym language. The two linguists highlighted the efforts made to preserve the Chulym language and record what language loss meant to the community. The two travel to Teg'l'det, a small village where they were able to find three Chulym speakers. It was there that they met Vasya, who was the youngest native Chulym speaker at the time. Their process of documentation included sitting down in private with the speakers and recording them during the interview. Accordingly, in collaboration with Vasya and the other two speakers, the two linguists were able to list words in Chulym such as numbers, greetings, a wool-spinning song, aphorisms, and bear- and moose-hunting stories. They were also able to collect personal narratives, spontaneous conversations, body parts, colors, fauna, flora and kin terms, along with instructions on how to use certain tools such as fur-covered skis and wooden canoes. The two linguists often sat with the natives and asked them to count in correspondence with their fingers, revealing how Chulym uses a 12-base instead of a 10-base number system. They also asked the natives to interpret specific sentences, with the intention to identify any Chulym rules of grammar. With this, the linguists battled to offset the negative connotations of and attitudes towards the Chulym language.^[9]

Sounds/Phonology

Consonants

The following table lists the consonants of Chulym, dialectal variations are marked: MC = Middle Chulym dialect, LC = Lower Chulym dialect, K = Küärik subdialect of LC. The table was derived from Dul'zon^[10] and Pomorska^[11].

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Post-alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Stop</u>	/p/, /b/	/t/, /d/ /t'/ (LC)			/k/, /g/	/ʔ/
<u>Fricative</u>	/v/	/s/, /z/	/ʃ/, /ʒ/		/h~ /x/, /ɣ/	
<u>Affricate</u>		/t͡s/, /d͡z/ (LC)		/ç/, /j̥/ (MC)		
<u>Nasal</u>	/m/	/n/ /n'/ (MC, K)			/ŋ/	
<u>Liquid</u>		/l/, /r/				
<u>Glide</u>				/j/		

/q/ is an allophone of /k/ in back-vowel words. /h/ is only found medially and finally, it is the result of secondary spirantization. The phonetic value of /v/ is uncertain, but Dul'zon^[10] lists it as bilabial /β/. Dul'zon also includes voiceless nasal /ɱ/ and voiceless liquids /ɾ/ and /ɭ/, these are not found in the more recent publication of Pomorska^[11].

Grammar

Morphology

Personal pronouns^[12]

Singular		Plural	
Chulym (translit.)	English	Chulym (translit.)	English
Мян (<i>mæn</i>)	I	Пис (<i>pis</i>)	We
Сян (<i>sæn</i>)	You (informal sg.)	Силяр (<i>silær</i>)	You (pl. or formal sg.)
Ол (<i>ol</i>)	He/She/It	Олар (<i>olar</i>)	They

Declension of pronouns (incomplete!)^[12]

	Singular			Plural		
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Nom	Мян	Сян	Ол	Пис	Силяр	Олар
Gen	Мен	Сен	(Ол) анын	Пистин	Силярнин	Оларнын

Syntax

Chulym uses SOV word order and post-positions, just like many of the neighboring Turkic and Tatar languages.^[10]

Vocabulary

As its speakers lose more and more knowledge of their language because of the language devalorization process described above, Chulym has borrowed a large amount of Russian words in recent years. Most commonly, interjections and discourse particles are borrowed from Russian, in addition to concepts that have no corresponding Chulym words.

Writing system

Cyrillic alphabet (Tutal dialect):^[13]

А а	Б б	В в	Г г	Ғ ғ
Д д	Дж дж	Е е	Ё ё	Ж ж
З з	И и	Й й	К к	Л л
М м	Н н		О о	П п

Н н				
Р р	С с	Т т	У у	Ф ф
Ц ц	Ч ч	Ш ш	Щ щ	Ъ ъ
Ы ы	Ь ь	Э э	Ю ю	Я я

References

1. Chulym (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/clw/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Chulym Turkic" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chul1246>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. K.D. Harrison; G. D. S. Anderson (2006). "Ös tili (Middle and Upper Chulym Dialects): Towards a comprehensive documentation". *Turkic Languages*. **10** (1): 47–71.
4. Novgorodov, Innokentiy; Lemskaya, Valeriya; Gainutdinova, Albina; Ishkildina, Linara (2015). "The Chulym Turkic language is of the Kipchak Turkic language origin according to the Leipzig-Jakarta list". *Türkbilig*. **29**: 1–18.
5. Lemskaya, Valeriya (2010). "Middle Chulym: The state of the art". *Turkic Languages*. **14**: 113–126.
6. Kirk Honeycutt (18 January 2008). "The Linguists" (https://web.archive.org/web/20081121013020/http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/hr/awards_festivals/fest_reviews/article_display.jsp?&rid=10471). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Archived from the original (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/hr/awards_festivals/fest_reviews/article_display.jsp?&rid=10471) on November 21, 2008. Retrieved 22 February 2009.
7. K.D. Harrison; G. D. S. Anderson (2003). "Middle Chulym: Theoretical aspects, recent fieldwork and current state". *Turkic Languages*. **7** (2): 245–256.
8. *The Linguists* (film, 2008)
9. "The Ös Documentation Project" (<https://livingtongues.org/os-chulym/>). Retrieved 2020-07-02.
10. Dul'zon, A. P. (1966). "Čulymsko-tjurkskij jazyk". *Jazyki narodov SSSR* (in Russian). **2**: 446–466.
11. Pomorska, Marzanna (2001). "The Chulym and Their Language. An Attempt at a Description of Chulym Phonetics and Nominal Morphology". *Türk Dilleri Araştırmaları*. **11**: 75–123.
12. Кондяков Александр Фёдорович; Лемская Валерия Михайловна. *Чулымско-Тюрский Язык* (in Russian) (Draft ed.). Красноярского Края.
13. Gregory D. S. Anderson; K. David Harrison; Vasilij Gabov (2007). *Chulym ABC Reader for Local School* (in Chulym). AS, Russian Federation, Tomsk Oblast, Siberia: Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages.

External links

- 'The Linguists': Raiders of the Lost Tongues ("I have always loved the Chulym language.") (<http://www.csmonitor.com/The-Culture/The-Home-Forum/2009/0227/p18s01-hfes.html>)
- "When Languages Die" author/linguist K. David Harrison (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMLYo8zQOVs>) on YouTube
- Bear Story in Chulym (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_LAZvhWNew) on YouTube (in Chulym)
- Язык чулымских тюрков (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070317203505/http://lingsib.unesco.ru/ru/languages/chulym.shtml.htm>) (in Russian)

- [Информация о чулымцах на сайте Совета Федерации \(https://archive.is/20121221144041/http://www.severcom.ru/nations/item39.html\)](https://archive.is/20121221144041/http://www.severcom.ru/nations/item39.html) (in Russian)
 - [Информация на narodru.ru \(http://www.narodru.ru/peoples1299.html\)](http://www.narodru.ru/peoples1299.html) (in Russian)
 - [Чулымцы возрождают родной язык \(http://krasnoyarsk.rfn.ru/region/rnews.html?id=8349&rid=339&iid=967\)](http://krasnoyarsk.rfn.ru/region/rnews.html?id=8349&rid=339&iid=967) (in Russian)
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Chulym_language&oldid=969964219"

This page was last edited on 28 July 2020, at 12:45 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.